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The Life of Edward, Earl of Clarendon, Lord High Chancellor of England. By Sir HENRY CRAIK, K.C.B., LL.D. In two volumes. (London: Smith, Elder, and Company. 1911. Pp. ix, 394; 343.)

It is now seventy-five years since Lister's *Life of Clarendon* appeared. Since then but one considerable account of the great chancellor, that by Professor Firth in the *Dictionary of National Biography*, has seen the light, and that is fully a quarter of a century old. Meanwhile a whole library of original material for the seventeenth century has been unearthed and published as it stood, or worked up in monographs, biographies, or histories. Since Lister a long generation of scholars headed by Gardiner, Ranke, and Firth, have discovered to us a whole new revolutionary epoch. Even since the appearance of the tenth volume of the *Dictionary* no small collection of material and studies has been published which throws light upon the age of Clarendon. It would, then, seem high time to have a new biography of the minister, on an appropriate scale, which, even though it added nothing new of its own, should at least gather up all this new material and present it in the light of our present knowledge and understanding of the period. This is the more true in that the lives of eminent Royalists are still all too scarce—and one therefore takes up these new volumes of Sir Henry Craik with peculiar interest and anticipation.

In what spirit and according to what method the present biography has been written, from what material it has been drawn, let the author's own words declare. "I do not propose", he says, "to re-write the history of the Civil War and its sequel. I wish only to depict the character, to appreciate the motives, and to investigate the action of one who was a foremost actor in the great struggle . . . and to claim for him the honour which he deserves as one of England's great statesmen. I am quite aware that, in so doing, I must dispute the adverse and grudging estimates of those who have condemned and belittled his work, and of those hardly less unfriendly critics who have given him but faint and lukewarm praise. . . . I do not claim to have unearthed new documents, nor have I sought, from the obscure memorials that remain, to adduce new facts that might rebut existing records. Even to reproduce, in copious annotations, the foundations upon which my narrative is based, would have encumbered my main object. . . . Amidst the tangled mass, through which we must make our way in order to construct the story, I do not hesitate to declare that I look chiefly to the great record . . . which he has himself left us." And again, "Clarendon's influence is chiefly interesting because he created the abiding tradition of a great party in the State, which lasted for at least a century and a half. It is none the less interesting at this moment, when we seem to have cut ourselves adrift from the Constitutional landmarks of the past." It is not often that an author so relieves a reviewer of his task. Here we have

a biography favorable to the verge of eulogy, derived so largely from Clarendon's own words that parts of it seem little more than a rewriting of the *History* or the *Life*, written from a conservative, high church standpoint, and not uninfluenced by the recent democratic revolution in the British Isles.

How much the book owes to earlier writers in the field we may judge somewhat from his description of Lister, "that most luke-warm of all biographers", full of "the true spirit of orthodox Whiggism", and, in at least one case, "not even consistent with himself much less with historical truth". In Gardiner "much rancour may be combined with an almost quaker-like profession of what is called historical impartiality", and with an "overmastering desire to belittle Hyde's part in the history of his time", in accordance with the "apparent but not very real impartiality of tone" of his school. Apart from his references to the works of Lister and Gardiner the author's numerous foot-notes relate almost entirely to Clarendon and the better known body of published original material. He has, without doubt, read widely in the literature of the period and has used much of it which his references do not indicate. But of later scholarship's contribution to the subject there is not much trace. Nowhere, perhaps, in recent historical literature can one find a more notable example of his peculiar type of historical writing than in his long foot-note on the Grand Remonstrance, that "long rigmarole", "sorry production", "farrago of narrative, of ejaculatory lamentations, of bitter invective, and of pietistic aspirations", where his shrewd guess as to its composition is apparently free from any suspicion of an increase of knowledge concerning it since Rushworth's time. It would far exceed the limits of any reasonable review to discuss the various questions raised by almost every chapter of the book, nor is it necessary to do so, to appraise its value. It would be wearisome to enumerate the variety of phrases evolved to describe the wickedness of Vane, to say nothing of Clarendon's other numerous opponents. It would scarcely be possible to discuss the many points where Hyde is defended from possible criticism by the (favorite word of the author) loyalty of Craik—his insinuation into place and power, his abstention from a dangerous course in Strafford's case, his great care for his own safety amid war's alarms, or his mistakes after he became chief minister. Craik admits few faults or none in his hero, and he does little to clear the mystery surrounding no small number of circumstances in his career, though, beyond all other writers, he makes entirely clear from Clarendon's own words how that didactic sermonizing spirit grew so distasteful to a pleasure-loving king, whom, to his lasting honor, he never hesitated to rebuke.

This new biography tempts to endless controversy on almost every page, but, given the spirit and method of the author, there is perhaps nothing more to be said. We still need, not a eulogistic rewriting of Hyde's own *apologia pro vita sua*—that splendid classic speaks for itself

—but a biography based on modern scholarship and impartial judgment. For, whatever Clarendon's weaknesses, they were not so great as to deserve unqualified defense; whatever his strength it was not so small as to require unlimited praise.

W. C. ABBOTT.

Henry Fox, First Lord Holland: a Study of the Career of an Eighteenth Century Politician. By THAD W. RIKER, M.A., B.Litt. Oxon. In two volumes. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1911. Pp. 438; 419.)

THIS book, by a former Rhodes Scholar, inevitably challenges comparison with two other recent eighteenth-century biographies, Dr. von Ruville's *Chatham*, and Lord Rosebery's *Chatham*. Mr. Riker's book has the same merits and the same defects as that of Dr. von Ruville; both authors show familiarity with modern methods of research, both can track down an undated letter, or give a lucid statement of a complex situation. But too often the life expires under the dissection. Both have toiled more in dusty repositories than has Lord Rosebery, but neither has the knowledge of English political life, or of the old Whig idea of connection as a social and political force, which Lord Rosebery has as his birthright.

Mr. Riker shows commendable erudition, but little power of historical interpretation. From the chief sources, published and unpublished, he has given us a minute and externally correct account of a tangled period; he has toiled through the Newcastle and the Hardwicke correspondence, and not a few other manuscript collections in the British Museum, and in the Public Record Office; but his style is unformed, and his comments on men and things commonplace and uninteresting; his book is a clear and careful chronological statement; to the higher qualities of historical interpretation it makes little if any claim.

Though called a life of Henry Fox, Mr. Riker's book treats fully only of the period from 1754 to 1763, and especially of that from 1754 to 1757, the three years of struggle following the death of Pelham, which decided that Pitt and not Fox was to control the destinies of England. Of Fox's rise to influence he says little, and still less of his later years of retirement. Even in the period which he treats in detail, he devotes himself almost wholly to Fox as a party manager. Though as secretary at war Fox seems to have been an energetic and efficient administrator, of this side of his life Mr. Riker gives us almost nothing, perhaps wisely preferring to wait for access to the papers at Holland House. Even of the subject thus limited, Mr. Riker's treatment is external. We are given a minute and accurate account of all the ministerial changes which were made, projected, or suspected; but though we are often told that Fox was a supreme party manager, we get few glimpses into his secret. His greatest achievement was the passing through Parliament by an enor-